

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend claim 59 as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for dispensing a plurality of fluids, the apparatus comprising:

a plurality of pumps, each pump having a connector for releasably connecting a container to the respective pump,

each container holding a fluid and comprising a connector-counterpart,

at least one pivoting actuator lever for both releasing the containers from their respective connectors and for pulling the same onto the connector and establishing a fluid connection between the respective pump and the container,

the at least one pivoting actuator lever being mounted on a pivot axis, the pivoting actuator lever comprising an operating handle on one side of the pivot axis and at least one arm for operatively engaging the connector-counterpart on the other side of the pivot axis.

2. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein at least some of the pumps are associated with the pivoting actuator lever.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein, upon establishing a fluid connection between the respective pump and the container, the handle extends substantially parallel to the pump and/or the container.

5. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the connector-counterpart comprises at least one rail or slot and the said arm comprises at least one protrusion adapted to engage the rail or slot.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of containers for storing a fluid and wherein each of the containers comprises a connector-counterpart for connection to a respective connector.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the connectors are mounted on a turntable and arranged in a circle or part of a circle

8. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for dispensing a plurality of fluids, comprising:

a plurality of volumetric metering pumps, each connected to a container or having a connector for releasably connecting a container to the respective pump, and

a weighing device for measuring the weight of the fluid dispensed by the pumps,

wherein each container is a bag-in-box container and comprises a connector-counterpart fixed to the bag, each box comprises an opening for accommodating the connector-counterpart, the connector-counterpart comprises a rim comprising a groove or at least one recess, and wherein the rim of the opening in the box is positioned in the said groove or at least one recess.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, which further comprises a data processing device comprising: a memory for storing at least one parameter indicative of the required accuracy of the weight measurement to be carried out and wherein the length of the time interval during which the weight measurements are carried out is selected depending on the stored parameter.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the at least one parameter is indicative of the amounts that have been dispensed by each of at least some of the pumps.

11 (Withdrawn) A method of measuring the density of a fluid by means an apparatus for dispensing a plurality of fluids, comprising a plurality of volumetric metering pumps, connected to a container or having a connector for releasably connecting a container to the respective pump, and a weighing device for measuring the weight of the fluid dispensed by the pumps, comprising:

dispensing a pre-selected amount of the fluid;

measuring the weight of the dispensed amount; and

dividing the measured weight by the dispensed volume thus yielding a value for density.

12. (Withdrawn) A method of calibrating an apparatus for dispensing a plurality of fluids, comprising a plurality of volumetric metering pumps, connected to a container or having a connector for releasably connecting a container to the respective pump, a weighing device for measuring the weight of the fluid dispensed by the pumps, a data processing device comprising a memory, for storing data, the method comprising:

selecting one or more discrete volumes;

dispensing each of the volumes one or more times with at least one, preferably all of the pumps;

measuring each of the dispensed volumes and, if applicable, calculate for the discrete volumes and the pumps a mean value of the measured values; and

storing the obtained data in the said device

13 (Withdrawn) The method of claim 12, comprising the steps of:

determining the smallest amount of fluid that is likely to be dispensed, and

selecting at least one discrete volume smaller this smallest amount

14. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for dispensing a plurality of fluids, the apparatus comprising:

a plurality of pumps, a plurality of containers, a plurality of connectors, and a plurality of receptacles,

each pump connected to a container by a connector,

at least some of the connectors being positioned above one of the a receptacles, the receptacles collecting fluid dripping from their respective connectors,

a shared receptacle being positioned beneath the plurality of receptacles to collect fluid dripping from the plurality of receptacles.

15. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein each receptacle comprises a lower wall, the lower walls of the receptacles being inclined and the lower walls comprising an opening for passing collected fluid down to the shared receptacle

16. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 15, wherein a portion of each lower wall of the receptacle is funnel shaped

17. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the pumps and receptacles are mounted over a support and wherein the portion of the lower wall that is funnel-shaped extends through the support.

18. (Previously Presented) the apparatus of claim 20, further comprising a drawer positioned below the inclined first, second and third surfaces.

19. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the shared receptacle comprises an inclined first surface, positioned beneath at least some of the receptacles, the inclined first surface comprising a lower rim connected to a raised edge, the lower rim and raised edge forming a first end of the inclined first surface, the shared receptacle further comprising an inclined second surface, positioned beneath the first end the inclined first surface.

20. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the inclined first surface comprises a second end disposed opposite the lower rim and raised edge from the first end, the shared receptacle further comprising an inclined third surface positioned beneath the second end of the inclined first surface.

21. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the pumps, connectors, and receptacles and shared receptacle are mounted on a turntable and arranged in a circle or part of a circle, the drawer being positioned beneath the inclined first, second and third surfaces, and wherein the inclined first, second and third surfaces of the shared receptacle follow the circumference of the said turntable such that fluid dripping from any one of the receptacles will be collected by at least one of the inclined surfaces.

22. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for dispensing a plurality of fluids, the apparatus comprising:

a support, and

a plurality of pumps, each pump connected to a container or having a connector for releasably connecting a container to the respective pump, and,

a guide for receiving and accommodating a container mounted on the support,

each combination of a pump, a connector, and a container or guide is formed as a module which is releasably mounted on the support,

the modules comprising a front portion and a rear portion, the rear portion of each module comprising first half of a releasable connection selected from the group consisting of an extension and a recess, the support comprising second halves of the releasable connections selected from the group consisting of a plurality recesses for receiving extensions of modules, a plurality of extensions for engaging recesses of modules and combinations thereof.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the rear portion of each module comprises an extension extending below the module and beyond the rear portion thereof, whereas the support comprises a plurality of recesses, each recess for receiving one of the extensions

25. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein at least some of the pumps comprise an actuator for releasing a container from the connector and wherein the actuator is part of the module.

26. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein a receptacle is positioned beneath or around at least some of the connectors to collect fluid leaking or dripping from a respective container and wherein the receptacle is part of the module.

27. (Original) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the modules are mounted on a turntable and arranged in a circle or part of a circle.

28. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for dispensing a plurality of fluids, comprising;

a turntable and

a plurality of pumps, each connected to a container or having a connector for releasably connecting a container to the respective pump,

the pumps and containers or connectors being mounted on the turntable arranged along the circumference of the turntable or part of the circumference of the turntable,

wherein at least one of the containers has a larger volume than the other containers or is in fluid connection with a further container positioned towards or at the centre of the turntable.

29. (Original) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the containers comprise a front portion and a rear portion, the front portions being positioned at or near the circumference of the turntable, and wherein the rear portion of the at least one larger container extends beyond the rear portions of at least some of the other containers.

30. (Original) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the rear portion of the at least one larger container comprises two sidewalls tapering towards the centre of the turntable.

31. (Original) The apparatus of claim 29, comprising one or more larger containers, wherein the rear portions of the containers are complementary in shape with respect to each other and/or with respect to the rear portions of the other containers.

32. (Original) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the rear portions of the larger containers take up substantially all of the space defined by the rear portions of the other containers.

33. (Original) The apparatus of claim 28, comprising two or more larger containers, which are substantially evenly distributed, either individually or group wise, over the circumference of the turntable.

34. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 28, comprising two or more larger containers containing a developer of different concentrations.

35. (Original) The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the concentrations of the developer are in a range from 0 to 20 percent.

36. (Original) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the at least one larger container comprises a front portion and a rear portion and wherein a filler opening is provided in at least the front portion.

37. (Original) A container for use in the apparatus of claim 1, which comprises a connector-counterpart provided at least one rail or slot.

38. (Original) A container for use in the apparatus of claim 1, wherein the container is a bag-in-box container and at least part of the outer surface of the container is made of paper or cardboard.

39. (Original) A container for use in the apparatus of claim 8, wherein the container is a bag-in-box container and at least part of the outer surface of the container is made of paper or cardboard.

40. (Original) A container for use in the apparatus of claim 14, wherein the container is a bag-in-box container and at least part of the outer surface of the container is made of paper or cardboard.

41. (Original) A container for use in the apparatus of claim 22, wherein the container is a bag-in-box container and at least part of the outer surface of the container is made of paper or cardboard.

42. (Original) A container for use in the apparatus of claim 28, wherein the container is a bag-in-box container and at least part of the outer surface of the container is made of paper or cardboard.

43. (Original) A container for use in the apparatus of claim 1, wherein the container is a bag-in-box container, a connector-counterpart is fixed to the bag, the box comprises an opening for accommodating the connector-counterpart, the connector-counterpart comprises a rim comprising a groove or at least one recess, and wherein the rim of the opening in the box is positioned in the said groove or at least one recess.

44. (Cancelled).

45. (Original) A container for use in the apparatus of claim 14, wherein the container is a bag-in-box container, a connector-counterpart is fixed to the bag, the box comprises an opening for accommodating the connector-counterpart, the connector-counterpart comprises a rim comprising a groove or at least one recess, and wherein the rim of the opening in the box is positioned in the said groove or at least one recess.

46. (Original) A container for use in the apparatus of claim 22, wherein the container is a bag-in-box container, a connector-counterpart is fixed to the bag, the box comprises an opening for accommodating the connector-counterpart, the connector-counterpart comprises a rim comprising a groove or at least one recess, and wherein the rim of the opening in the box is positioned in the said groove or at least one recess.

47. (Original) A container for use in the apparatus of claim 28, wherein the container is a bag-in-box container, a connector-counterpart is fixed to the bag, the box comprises an opening for accommodating the connector-counterpart, the connector-counterpart comprises a rim comprising a groove or at least one recess, and wherein the rim of the opening in the box is positioned in the said groove or at least one recess.

48 (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 7, further comprising a weighing device disposed tangentially to the turntable but vertically below the turntable, the weighing device providing a surface for supporting a product container to be at least partially filled with at least some of the plurality of fluids, the weighing device measuring the weight of each fluid dispensed into the product container.

49 (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 48, wherein the weighing device communicates signals indicative of the weights of the fluids dispensed into the product container to a computer.

50. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 49, wherein the computer verifies that each fluid intended to be dispensed was dispensed and that correct amounts of each fluid dispensed into the computer were actually dispensed.

51. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the weighing device communicates signals indicative of the weights of the fluids dispensed into the product container to a computer.

52. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 51, wherein the computer verifies that each fluid intended to be dispensed was dispensed and that correct amounts of each fluid dispensed were actually dispensed.

53 (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 27, further comprising a weighing device disposed tangentially to the turntable but vertically below the turntable, the weighing device providing a surface for supporting a product container to be at least partially filled with at least some of the plurality of fluids, the weighing device measuring the weight of each fluid dispensed into the product container.

54. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 53, wherein the weighing device communicates signals indicative of the weights of the fluids dispensed into the product container to a computer.

55. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 54, wherein the computer verifies that each fluid intended to be dispensed was dispensed and that correct amounts of each fluid dispensed into the computer were actually dispensed.

56. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 28, further comprising a weighing device disposed tangentially to the turntable but vertically below the turntable, the weighing device providing a surface for supporting a product container to be at least partially filled with at least some of the plurality of fluids, the weighing device measuring the weight of each fluid dispensed into the product container.

57. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 56, wherein the weighing device communicates signals indicative of the weights of the fluids dispensed into the product container to a computer.

58. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 56, wherein the computer verifies that each fluid intended to be dispensed was dispensed and that correct amounts of each fluid dispensed into the computer were actually dispensed.

59 (Currently Amended) A method of dispensing a recipe comprising a plurality of fluids from a dispensing apparatus comprising a plurality of pumps, each pump connected to a container holding one of said fluids, the apparatus further comprising a weighing device for measuring the a weight of ~~the~~ each fluid dispensed by the pumps, and a computer having a memory with a plurality of recipes stored therein, the method comprising:
selecting a recipe;

for each fluid of the recipe, dispensing each fluid from its respective pump and weighing ~~the~~ an amount of fluid dispensed by its respective pump and confirming that a correct amount of fluid was dispensed